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## COINS LOG

A special meeting of the COINS Committee was held in The Directors Conference Room at NSA Friday morning 22 November. The Committee heard a presentation by [ ] 25X1 on a threat matrix they had devised, which could be used for a security evaluation of COINS (matrix attached).

The briefing was primarily an explanation of the terms used in the matrix and examples. It was not a plan for the security evaluation of COINS, but a methodology. One comment afterwards was that it was almost a glorified check list.

25X1 [ ] agreed that the Committee would have to draw up its own security evaluation plan, probably using this as a guide.

In the question and answer part of the program afterwards several interesting points were made. First of all, most of the SO6 people thought that software was potentially the greatest security threat. They had found in their experience few hardware difficulties (e.g., false dumps through machine shortcomings). They also refused to handle absolutes -- they could never at any point say that a system was really secure. They looked at themselves more like data gatherers (e.g., private detectives) who presented the facts to management and let management make the decision whether the system was safe.

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